

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-194. (Cancelled)

195. (New) A method of inhibiting B lymphocytes comprising administering an effective amount of an antibody that binds a protein whose amino acid sequence is:

MDDSTEREQS RLTSCCLKRE EMKLKECVSI LPRKESPSVR SSKDGKLLAA
TLLLALLSCC LTVVSFYQVA ALQGDLASLR AELQGHHA EK LPAGAGAPKA
GLEEAPAVTA GLKIFEPPAP GEGNSSQNSR NKRAVQGPEE TVTQDCLQLI
ADSETPTIQK GSYTFVPWLL SFKRGSAL EE KENKILVKET GYFFIYGQVL
YTDKTYAMGH LIQRKKVHVF GDELSLVTLF RCIQNMPETL PNNSCYSAGI
AKLEEGDELQ LAIPRENAQI SLDGDVTFFG ALKLL

wherein B lymphocytes are inhibited.

196. (New) A method of inhibiting B lymphocyte proliferation comprising administering an effective amount of an antibody that binds Neutrokin- α (SEQ ID NO:2), wherein B lymphocyte proliferation is inhibited.

197. (New) A method of inhibiting B lymphocyte differentiation comprising administering an effective amount of an antibody that binds Neutrokin- α (SEQ ID NO:2), wherein B lymphocyte differentiation is inhibited.

198. (New) The method of any one of claims 195-197, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

199. (New) The method of any one of claims 195-197, wherein the antibody is recombinantly produced.

200. (New) The method of any one of claims 195-197, wherein the antibody is a chimeric antibody.

201. (New) The method of any one of claims 195-197, wherein the antibody is a humanized antibody.

202. (New) The method of any one of claims 195-197, wherein the antibody comprises human constant domains.

203. (New) The method of any one of claims 195-197, wherein the antibody is a F(ab')₂ fragment.

204. (New) The method of any one of claims 195-197, wherein the antibody is a polyclonal antibody.

205. (New) The method of any one of claims 195-197, wherein the antibody is a Fab fragment.

206. (New) The method of any one of claims 195-197, wherein the antibody is administered to an individual.

207. (New) The method of any one of claims 195-197, wherein the antibody is administered to a cell culture.

208. (New) A method of inhibiting B-cell growth in an animal comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of an anti-Neutrokin- α antibody that binds human Neutrokin- α (SEQ ID NO:2), wherein B-cell growth in the animal is inhibited.

209. (New) A method of inhibiting immunoglobulin production in an animal comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of an anti-Neutrokin- α antibody that binds human Neutrokin- α (SEQ ID NO:2), wherein immunoglobulin production in the animal is inhibited.

210. (New) A method of co-inhibiting B-cell growth and immunoglobulin production in an animal comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of an anti-Neutrokin- α antibody that binds human Neutrokin- α (SEQ ID NO:2), wherein B-cell growth and immunoglobulin production in the animal are inhibited.

211. (New) A method of inhibiting B-cell growth and maturation in an animal comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of an anti-

Neutrokin- α antibody that binds human Neutrokin- α (SEQ ID NO:2), wherein B-cell growth and maturation in the animal are inhibited.

212. (New) A method of inhibiting B-cell growth in an animal comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of an anti-Neutrokin- α antibody that binds murine Neutrokin- α , wherein B-cell growth in the animal is inhibited.

213. (New) A method of inhibiting immunoglobulin production in an animal comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of an anti-Neutrokin- α antibody that binds murine Neutrokin- α , wherein immunoglobulin production in the animal is inhibited.

214. (New) A method of co-inhibiting B-cell growth and immunoglobulin production in an animal comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of an anti-Neutrokin- α antibody that binds murine Neutrokin- α , wherein B-cell growth and immunoglobulin production in the animal are inhibited.

215. (New) A method of inhibiting B-cell growth and maturation in an animal comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of an anti-Neutrokin- α antibody that binds murine Neutrokin- α ; wherein B-cell growth and maturation in the animal are inhibited.

216. (New) The method according to any one of claims 208-215, wherein the anti-Neutrokin- α antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

217. (New) The methods of claim 216, wherein the antibody is recombinantly produced.

218. (New) The method as in claim 216, wherein the antibody is a chimeric antibody.

219. (New) The method as in claim 216, wherein the antibody is a humanized antibody.

220. (New) The method as in claim 216, wherein the antibody comprises human constant domains.

221. (New) The method as in claim 216, wherein the antibody is a F(ab')₂ fragment.